GOLD KEY

THE SCARECROW

12c

WALT DISNEY'S

THE SCARECROW

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From marsh to highland goes the cry...
BEWARE THE FALSE DEMON GHOST!

SCARECROW! SCARECROW!

On the southern coast of England there's a legend
people tell,
Of days long ago when the great Scarecrow
would ride from the jaws of hell,
And laugh with a fiendish yell.
With his clothes all torn and tattered,
Through the black of night he'd ride;
From the marsh to the coast like a demon ghost,
He'd rob the rich then hide,
And he'd laugh till he split his side.

SCARECROW, SCARECROW! The soldiers of
the king feared his name.
SCARECROW, SCARECROW! The country folk
all loved him just the same.
SCARECROW.

He would always help the farmer when there was
no gold to bring.
He'd find a way for the poor to pay the taxes of
the king
With gold from a smuggler's ring.
So the king told all his soldiers,
"Hang him high or hang him low;
But never return till the day I learn,
He rides in flames below,
Or you'll hang with the great Scarecrow."

SCARECROW, SCARECROW! The soldiers of
the king feared his name.
SCARECROW, SCARECROW! The country folk
all loved him just the same.
SCARECROW.

Scarecrow Song by Terry Gilkyson
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Walt Disney's

THE SCARECROW

BEWARE THE FALSE DEMON GHOST

PART I

AGAIN, THE PHANTOM, KNOWN AS THE SCARECROW OF ROMNEY MARSH, TWEAKS THE NOSE OF ENGLAND'S KING GEORGE AND LAUGHS AT HIS MAJESTY'S REDCOATS AS THEY PURSUE HIM...

HEE-HEE-HA-HEEEE!

MEANWHILE, THE ONLY TWO PERSONS WHO KNOW THE SCARECROW'S TRUE IDENTITY MUST STAND AND LOOK ON...

THEY DON'T SEE US OR THE WAGONS! HE'S DRAWING THEM AWAY!

AND WE HAVE NO CHANCE TO HELP HIM...ME WITH A LAME HORSE!

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FASTER! THIS TIME HE'LL NOT ESCAPE US!

WE'VE LED THEM FAR ENOUGH! GO, BELLE! SHOW THEM YOUR HEELS!

SIR, HE'S GONE...LIKE A PUFF OF SMOKE!

NO! NOT AGAIN! SPREAD OUT...KEEP LOOKING! WE MUST TAKE HIM!

ANOTHER CLOSE SHAVE! I MUST GIVE THANKS TO PROVIDENCE FOR SPARING ME TO CONTINUE MY WORK!

THEN THE SCARECROW JOINS HIS FRIENDS...

MY HORSE CAN MANAGE AT A WALK, SIR!

WE'LL HOPE THAT WE ENCOUNTER NO MORE OF GENERAL PUGH'S REDCOATS TONIGHT!

SAFELY BACK AT THE VICARAGE OF DYMCHURCH...

ANOTHER SHIP'S FULL CARGO SAFELY LANDED, TO BE TURNED INTO GOLD...TO FIGHT THE KING! THANKS BE TO YOU, DR. SYN!

NOT TO FIGHT THE KING, MIPPS, BUT HIS MISGUIDED POLICIES OF TYRANNY, INJUSTICE AND CRUSHING TAXATION!

THOSE WE HELP, WITH THE MONEY WE PROVIDE, WILL STAND NOW AND MAKE THIS A DECENT LAND FOR ALL MEN!

AYE, SIR! AND WE'LL KEEP GIVING HELP TO SPEED THAT DAY!

GOOD NIGHT, JOHN, WITH MY THANKS AND MY BLESSING!

I'LL DO SOME WATCHING AND LISTENING FOR YOU TOMORROW, VICAR!

A BRAVE LAD, JOHN BANKS! COULD I ACCOMPLISH NEARLY AS MUCH WITHOUT HIS HELP? I DOUBT IT!

AND, AT GENERAL PUGH'S HEADQUARTERS...

HE-HE GOT AWAY, SIR!

ANOTHER FAILURE TO PLAGUE ME! I'LL HAVE YOU BROKEN FOR THIS!

BUT HE JUST DISAPPEARED, GENERAL PUGH!

ALL I HEAR ARE EXCUSES! GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!

AND I HAVE ORDERS BY THE LATE POST FOR ME TO REPORT TO HIS MAJESTY TOMORROW! I WISH I HAD AN EXCUSE TO SATISFY HIM!

ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, NEAR DYMCHURCH...

BUT I DON'T REMEMBER SIGNING THAT!

YOU'LL PAY WHAT IT SAYS YOU OWE ME OR I'LL TAKE MARVELL MANOR AND ALSO HAVE YOU IN DEBTORS' PRISON! DO YOU UNDERSTAND, SIR RODNEY MARVELL?

RODNEY, THAT MAN... DID HE MEAN WHAT HE SAID?

LEAVE ME ALONE, ANNE! A SISTER NEED NOT BE SO CONCERNED!

BUT I AM CONCERNED! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! THIS IS NOT LIKE RODNEY ...NOT AT ALL!

JOHN REPORTS TO DR. SYN...

IT WAS LEACH, THE MONEY-LENDER, SIR!

POOR ANNE! HER BROTHER IS A SORE TRIAL TO HER! AND MARVELL MANOR'S MORTGAGED WITH NOT A SPARE FARTHING TO PAY WHATEVER LEACH IS DEMANDING!

I MUST GO AND SEE IF THERE IS SOME HELP I MAY OFFER SIR RODNEY-!

A LETTER FOR YOU, VICAR, FROM THE BISHOP OF KENT!

HM! THIS IS URGENT! HIS GRACE REQUIRES ME AT ONCE, ON CHURCH BUSINESS!

I WILL HAVE TO BE GONE FOR SEVERAL DAYS!

MIPPS AND I WILL KEEP CLOSE WATCH ON EVERY-THING IN DYMCHURCH, DR. SYN!

AT WINDSOR CASTLE, KING GEORGE III IS IN A RAGE WHEN GENERAL PUGH REPORTS...

BUT, YOUR MAJESTY, I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING TO CATCH THE SCARECROW!

EXCUSES! EXCUSES! YOU'VE FAILED IN EVERYTHING, LETTING HIM MAKE A FOOL OF ME BEFORE ALL OF ENGLAND! NOW I SHALL ACT!

Y-YOU, YOUR MAJESTY...

SEND IN THE MONEY-LENDER OF DYMCHURCH!

LEACH, I LIKE THE PLAN YOU BROUGHT TO ME!

IT CAN'T FAIL, YOUR MAJESTY! AND I HAVE JUST THE MAN TO MAKE IT WORK!

GOOD! PUT A NOOSE AROUND THE SCARECROW'S NECK AND YOU CAN NAME YOUR OWN REWARD!

PUGH, TAKE YOUR ORDERS FROM LEACH! DO WHATEVER HE SAYS!

YES, YOUR MAJESTY!

ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, AT MRS. WAGGETT'S INN, IN DYMCHURCH...

SIR RODNEY, A WORD WITH YOU! THERE'S A SMALL FAVOR I WANT DONE TONIGHT!

I'LL DO NOTHING FOR YOU, LEACH!

YOU WILL, OR YOU'LL PUT THREE THOUSAND POUNDS IN MY HAND, HERE AND NOW!

AT TWILIGHT...

RODNEY, YOU KNOW WE PROMISED SIR THOMAS BANKS THAT WE'D DINE WITH HIM TONIGHT!

GO ALONE! I'VE OTHER THINGS TO DO!

THE LOOK ON HIS FACE... IF I ONLY KNEW WHAT WAS WRONG!

AND AT DUSK...

HEE-HEE-HA-HEEEEEE!

HARKEE, LADS! 'TIS THE SCARECROW! SADDLE UP!

BUT... THERE WAS NO SIGNAL WE'D RIDE TONIGHT! AND THE TIDE IS AT DEAD LOW! NO SHIP CAN COME IN!

THE DECISION TO RIDE MUST HAVE BEEN A SUDDEN ONE... HE'S RIDING A BLACK HORSE TONIGHT!

YES, ALWAYS BEFORE HE'S RIDDEN A WHITE ONE! COME, HE MAY NEED HELP!

THERE HE IS! DEAD AHEAD!

RIDING TOWARD BARREN MOOR! WHAT BUSINESS COULD BE TAKING HIM THERE...?

FIRE!

REDCOATS! A TRAP! GET BACK!

BLAM!

BLAM!

I'VE SUNK VERY LOW, DOING THIS! CAN DEBTORS' PRISON BE WORSE...?

WAT, I'LL SWEAR THE LOBSTER-BACKS DID. NOT FIRE AT THE SCARECROW ...ONLY AT US!

NE'ER MIND THAT NOW, CLEM! LEND ME A HAND WITH GUY ...HE TOOK A BALL IN THE SHOULDER!

SHORTLY...

YOU WERE IN LUCK, GUY! THE BALL ONLY GRAZED YOU! 'TIS BUT A SCRATCH!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! THE SCARECROW SEEMED TO LEAD US INTO THAT TRAP!

AYE! HE *IS* A DEMON GHOST! AND IF THE SCARECROW HAS TURNED AGAINST US...WE CAN TRUST NO ONE!

AT THE SAME TIME...

LEACH, IT IS A SCURVY THING THAT YOU ARE MAKING ME DO!

BUT YOU'LL KEEP ON DOING IT, WHEN AND HOW I TELL YOU!

A GOOD START, MAKING THOSE SCOUNDRELS THINK THE SCARECROW BETRAYED THEM! TOMORROW NIGHT, WE'LL MAKE THEM EVEN MORE SURE OF THAT WHEN YOU RIDE AGAIN!

I HATE YOU FOR THIS, LEACH!

AND WHEN YOU'VE SERVED MY PURPOSE, I'LL STILL TAKE MARVELL MANOR AND SEE YOU IN PRISON!

THE NEXT MORNING...

I'VE HEARD THE NEWS, JOHN! THE WHOLE PARISH IS FILLED WITH TALK ABOUT THE ATTACK LAST NIGHT!

DARE WE SEND A MESSAGE TO DR. SYN?

NO! IT MIGHT FALL IN THE WRONG HANDS AND BETRAY HIM! WE CAN ONLY SPREAD A WARNING: *BEWARE THE FALSE SCARECROW!*

SIR RODNEY'S SISTER ALSO HEARS OF THE SCARECROW'S STRANGE BEHAVIOR...

THEY SAY THE SCARECROW RODE A *BLACK* HORSE LAST NIGHT... STRANGE...

AND, THAT NIGHT, "THE SCARECROW" RIDES AGAIN, ON THE SAME BLACK HORSE...

HEE-HEE-HA-HEEEEE!

...CAUSING HAVOC...

...WHEREVER HE STRIKES...

HEE-HEE-HA-HEEEEE!

I SAW HIM FROM MY WINDOW! HEARD HIM LAUGH!

BUT A FALSE SCARECROW, THE WARNING SAID!

MAYBE FALSE...MAYBE THE REAL ONE, TAKING THE KING'S GOLD TO TURN AGAINST US AND RUIN US ALL!

DR. SYN RETURNS TO DYMCHURCH...

...AND PART OF WAT TAYLOR'S HOUSE WAS BURNED!

ANOTHER SCARECROW! AND SERVING AS BAIT TO TRAP ALL OF US, NO DOUBT!

THIS REQUIRES CAREFUL THOUGHT—THOUGH SOMETHING MUST BE DONE, AT ONCE!

I'LL NEED MORE SOLDIERS TONIGHT!

WHY TELL ME? YOU'RE RUNNING THINGS, SO TAKE THEM! TAKE AS MANY AS YOU NEED, BUT DON'T FAIL!

I'LL TAKE THE REAL SCARECROW, TOO! HE'LL COME OUT OF HIDING! HE MUST!

IF HE DOES, YOU MAY WISH HE HADN'T! BUT GO AHEAD!

LATER THAT DAY...

AGAIN, TONIGHT! I'LL MEET YOU AT EIGHT!

AGAIN...? AND TONIGHT-?

AND, AS DUSK BEGINS...

I KNOW THE DANGER OF WHAT I AM DOING, BUT ALL WE ARE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH IS AT STAKE! I MUST ACT...ALONE! SPREAD THE WORD!

BUT, SIR...

I'LL ENDANGER NO ONE ELSE! I RIDE ALONE! THAT IS AN ORDER!

MIPPS, I- I CAN'T JUST WAIT AND DO NOTHING!

NEITHER CAN I, LAD! FOR ONCE, WE MUSTN'T LISTEN TO HIM! HELLSPITE AND CURLEW WILL RIDE, TOO!

AS SIR RODNEY DEPARTS ON HIS HATED MISSION, HE IS FOLLOWED...

...AND ANNE DISCOVERS HER FEARS ABOUT HER BROTHER ARE TRUE.

LATER, THE NIGHT GROWS DARKER...

NO SIGN OF THAT IMPOSTOR YET! BUT I MAY HAVE LUCK HERE AT HIDDEN MARSH!

RODNEY! STOP! P-PLEASE COME HOME WITH ME! I'LL HELP YOU FACE WHATEVER IS WRONG-!

OH! THAT HORSE-! *YOU* AREN'T RODNEY!

THERE'S OUR MAN! DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!

RIDE, GIRL! RIDE! AHEAD OF ME!

SHE CAN'T BE TAKEN! NOR CAN I!

DR. SYN'S HORSE SUDDENLY SOMER-SAULTS, THROWING HIM CLEAR...

...AND THE VICAR IS STUNNED BY HIS FALL...

ANNE RIDES FAST INTO THE MARSH...

SEARCH AMONG THOSE REEDS! THERE'S A WOMAN IN THE MARSH WITH HIM! I WANT THEM BOTH!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THE BOY AND I HAD TO COME AFTER YOU, SIR! AND... REDCOATS EVERYWHERE! WE MUST RUN FOR IT!

RUN? THREE OF US, TWO HORSES...I FEAR WE WOULDN'T GET FAR! AND ANNE MARVELL WAS WITH ME! I MUST FIND HER!

I KNOW THE MARSH! LET ME LOOK FOR HER!

MEANWHILE...

A MOST EXCELLENT DINNER, SIR RICHARD! MY COMPLIMENTS TO YOU AND TO YOUR COOK!

LET LEACH CHASE THE SCARECROW TONIGHT! I'M FOR HOME AND A WARM BED!

ANNE! ANNE MARVELL—!

WH— WHO—?

COME ALONG! QUICKLY!

SHORTLY...

TAKE MY HORSE, SCARECROW! RIDE FAST, WITH THE GIRL AND THE LAD!

AND LEAVE YOU...? NO, WE'LL WALK, LEADING THE HORSES, AND HOPE WE MAY GET AWAY UNNOTICED!

AFTER HALF A MILE OF ANXIOUS WALKING...

WAT TAYLOR'S OLD BARN! WE MIGHT HIDE THERE!

AND RISK THE REDCOATS COMING AT US, WHEN THEY FIND THE MARSH EMPTY? I THINK NOT, FRIEND HELLSPITE!... BUT *LOOK!* UP AHEAD!

SOMETHING'S AMISS YONDER! COULD IT BE...?

YES IT IS! IT'S THE FALSE SCARECROW!

MOMENTS LATER, INSIDE THE BARN...

WE'VE GOT HIM!

AYE! NOW THERE'LL BE A RECKONING FOR THE BULLET THAT RIPPED MY SHOULDER!

GENTLEMEN! STOP WHERE YOU ARE!

ANOTHER SCARECROW!

HE'S THE *REAL* SCARECROW! I'D KNOW THAT VOICE ANYWHERE!

AND THIS OTHER ONE, THAT I SAW ON HIS BLACK HORSE...TRYING TO BURN MY HOUSE ...HANG HIM!

HAVE DONE WITH SUCH TALK!

HIS VOICE... SO 'HARSH AND YET ALSO KIND! WHO IS HE?

AYE, WE KNOW NOT...BUT WE TRUST HIM!

HAVE I EVER MISLED YOU? THEN LET ME HANDLE THIS, LADS! GO ALONG HOME! QUICKLY, WITH A SHARP EYE FOR THE REDCOATS!

AYE! WE'LL GO!

AND WE'LL RIDE WITH YOU, SCARECROW, WHEN THE SIGNAL COMES AGAIN!

SIR RODNEY MARVELL CONFESSES...

LEACH HAS A PAPER, SAYING I OWE THREE THOUSAND POUNDS... A GAMBLING DEBT! BUT I DON'T REMEMBER LOSING ANYWHERE NEAR THAT MUCH...OR SIGNING MY NAME!

LEACH PROBABLY MADE SURE, WITH RUM, THAT YOU WOULDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING!

MORE TROOPS COMING, SIR!

I HEAR THEM! BRING ME SIR RODNEY'S BLACK HORSE, HELLSPITE!

TELL CURLEW TO HAVE PEN AND PAPER READY FROM HIS SADDLEBAG! I'LL BE BACK SOON!

I- I HOPE SO, SIR!

DR. SYN RETURNS TO THE MARSH...

TAKE OFF THAT MASK, YOU FOOL, BEFORE SOMEBODY SHOOTS, THINKING YOU ARE A REAL SCARECROW!

SEE TO IT, IF NECESSARY, THAT YOUR MEN THINK I'M THE FALSE ONE! COME WITH ME, NOW! QUICKLY!

LATER, AT THE BARN...

I- I GOT SIR RODNEY TO SIGN WHEN HE WAS BE-FUDDLED!

WRITE IT, LEACH... AND THAT HE OWES YOU NOT A PENNY! THEN... NEVER LET ME SEE YOU IN DYMCHURCH AGAIN!

REDCOATS ARE COMING THIS WAY, SIR! I'M AFRAID IT'S TOO LATE FOR US TO GET CLEAR!

GENERAL PUGH'S COACH! I HAVE A FEELING THE GENERAL IS GOING TO SEE TO IT THAT HIS REDCOATS STOP THEIR SEARCH!

ON HIS WAY HOME, GENERAL PUGH'S COACH IS BLOCKED BY SEARCHING REDCOATS...

CONFOUND IT, CAPTAIN, GET THOSE TROOPS OUT OF THE WAY SO I CAN GO ON!

SUDDENLY...

GOOD EVENING, GENERAL! NO OUTCRY, IF YOU PLEASE!

YOU MAY NOW CALL AN ORDER FOR YOUR MEN TO FALL IN BEHIND AND FOLLOW YOUR COACH TO DYMCHURCH! GIVE THE COMMAND!

IN OBEDIENCE TO GENERAL PUGH'S ORDER, THE SEARCH FOR THE SCARECROW ENDS...

A LITTLE LATER...

AT LAST, YOU SCOUNDREL, YOU HAVE BEEN TOO BOLD!

INDEED? PLEASE EXPLAIN, GENERAL!

WE ARE NOW IN DYMCHURCH, WHERE YOU ARE GOING TO FIND LEAVING MY COACH MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THAN ENTERING IT!

PERHAPS! AND WE MAY AS WELL FIND OUT FOR CERTAIN... NOW!

GOOD NIGHT, GENERAL!

FIRE! STOP HIM! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

HEE-HEE-HA-HEEEEEE!

SHOOT, YOU DUNDERHEADS!

BUT AGAIN THE SCARECROW VANISHES!

OH, NO! NOT AGAIN!

LATER THAT NIGHT...

YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME, PUGH! TELL ME WHAT I SHALL DO NOW!

THERE IS ONLY ONE THING YOU CAN DO!

GO TO KING GEORGE AS I HAVE HAD TO DO SO OFTEN... AND CONFESS THAT YOU HAVE FAILED!

AND SEVERAL DAYS LATER, AT MARVELL MANOR...

I VOW NEVER TO GAMBLE AGAIN, DR. SYN!

THAT IS AS IT SHOULD BE, SIR RODNEY! YOU ARE TOO FINE A MAN TO DO SUCH THINGS!

AND I BLESS THE SCARECROW, WHOEVER HE MAY BE... FOR SAVING RODNEY'S LIFE WHEN HE WAS FORCED INTO SUCH A TERRIBLE PLAN!

I AM SURE THE SCARECROW WILL GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR BLESSING, ANNE... WHOEVER HE MAY BE!

the END

Walt Disney's

THE SCARECROW

THE TATTERED CLOAK

PART II

DR. SYN, AS THE SCARECROW, WITH HIS CONFEDERATES, CURLEW AND HELLSPITE, WAIT ANXIOUSLY FOR A SMALL BOAT WHICH IS APPROACHING THE SHORE...

WHAT COMES ASHORE IN YONDER BOAT MEANS WEALTH TO CARRY ON OUR FIGHT, SCARECROW!

HERE COME THE REDCOATS! WE'LL HAVE TO CONTACT THE DUTCHMAN LATER!

MUSKETS READY! AT LAST WE'VE GOT THAT DEMON GHOST AND HIS FIENDISH HELPERS!

ACROSS THE INLET! MOVE! HEE-HEE-HA-HEEEEEE!

SWING WIDE! GET IN FRONT OF THEM!

A TIDAL BORE! CAN WE MAKE IT?

WE MUST! FASTER, LADS!

BACK, SIR, BEFORE WE'RE ALL DROWNED!

THE TIDAL BORE RUSHES SWIFTLY IN FROM THE SEA...

AT LEAST IT'S THE END OF THE SCARECROW, EVEN IF I COULD NEVER PUT MY HANDS ON HIM!

BUT SKILL AND DARING SAVE DR. SYN AND HIS TWO COMPANIONS...

A CLOSE CALL, THAT!

AYE, SIR! WE'LL NEVER HAVE A CLOSER ONE!

FIRE! THOSE DEMONS LIVE! DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!

BUT, SIR, THEY'RE BEYOND RANGE!

SAFE AT LAST, THE HORSES ARE GIVEN A REST...

MY FAULT, LADS! I WAS TOO EAGER FOR A MEETING WITH THE DUTCHMAN! IS HE SAFELY BACK TO HIS SHIP?

YES, SIR! AND THE REDCOATS ARE ON THE MOVE AROUND THE INLET!

WE'RE FOR HOME, THEN! BUT... ANOTHER TRY TOMORROW NIGHT... WE *MUST* HAVE WHAT THE DUTCHMAN IS BRINGING US!

LATER THAT EVENING, AT THE VICARAGE OF DYMCHURCH...

GODSPEED, JOHN ... UNTIL TOMORROW EVENING!

SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR!

PLEASE, MA'AM! LET ME ANNOUNCE YOU!

FIDDLE-FADDLE! I'LL ANNOUNCE MYSELF!

AUNT MAUDE!

HMPH! CHRISTOPHER, YOUR PARISH MUST BE CHURCH-MOUSE POOR FOR YOU TO WEAR SUCH A THREADBARE CLOAK!

THE SCARECROW'S CLOAK! HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO REMOVE IT!

A PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU, AUNT! WILL YOU...ER...BE HERE LONG?

LONG ENOUGH FOR HOUSE CLEANING THAT'S BADLY NEEDED!

SHOW ME TO MY ROOM! AND AT COCK'S-CROW TOMORROW, MY MAN, REPORT TO ME WITH PAIL AND MOP!

BUT, MA'AM, I'M THE SEXTON, NOT A PARLOR MAID!

DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE GUESSED?

I THINK NOT, JOHN, SHE WOULD NEVER ASSOCIATE THE SCARECROW WITH THE CLOAK!

THE FOLLOWING DAY...

FASTER, MIPPS! THERE ARE STILL RUGS TO BE BEATEN AND WINDOWS TO BE WASHED!

ME, HAVING TO DO THIS KIND OF WORK! I'D ALMOST RATHER BE CAUGHT BY THE REDCOATS!

MEANWHILE, ANOTHER SURPRISE VISITOR MAKES A STARTLING DEMAND OF DR. SYN...

I SHOULD HELP YOU, GENERAL...?

YES, AT EVENING DUSK, AS A LOYAL SUBJECT OF THE KING! I HAVE NEED OF YOU, VICAR...

...AGAINST THE SCARECROW!

SOAPY PUGH!

MAUDE HIGHAM!

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, SOAPY, ALWAYS SQUEEZING OTHERS TO HELP YOU!

AND I HEARD YOU MENTION THE SCARECROW! UNLESS YOU'VE GROWN MUCH SMARTER, WHICH I DOUBT, YOU'LL NEVER CATCH HIM!

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT! VICAR, I STILL REQUIRE YOUR HELP!

YOU'LL RECEIVE YOUR ORDERS! GOOD DAY!

HMPH! USING A POOR, MEEK CLERGYMAN...!

YOU BELONG IN YOUR PULPIT, NOT PLAYING SOLDIER FOR SOAPY PUGH! AND FURTHERMORE...

I-I MUST LEAVE TO MAKE SOME PARISH CALLS, AUNT!

AT TWILIGHT OF THAT DAY...

GO, JOHN! BE WARY OF REDCOATS, BUT SEND THE DUTCHMAN THE SIGNAL!

I THINK I CAN MAKE IT TO BLACK TOR ALL RIGHT, SIR!

READY TO PLAY FOX AND HOUNDS NOW, MIPPS?

I'D RATHER BE RESTING IN A SOFT CHAIR AFTER TODAY'S WORK... BUT I'M READY, SIR!

A LITTLE LATER...

LOOK, SIR! ON THAT RIDGE YONDER!

HEE-HEE-HA-HEEEEEEE!

HE'S SHOWING, AS THE GENERAL SAID HE WOULD! AFTER HIM!

RIDE, HELLSPITE! WE'LL GIVE THEM THE SLIP!

NOW THOSE LOBSTERBACKS THINK WE'RE STILL AHEAD OF THEM!

GOOD! WE'LL FIND PUGH'S OTHER PATROL NOW AND RUN IT EASTWARD!

THE GAP BETWEEN THE SOLDIERS IS WIDENED...

NEARLY FAR ENOUGH, SIR, WITH A SAFE PATH OPENED UP FOR JOHN TO GET THROUGH!

AND FOR THE DUTCHMAN TO LAND, WE HOPE!

VICAR, OTHER REDCOATS MAY BE IN HIDING, WAITING!

I KNOW! BUT I MUST GET TO MY POST AND PRETEND TO OBEY THE GENERAL'S ORDERS! RETURN TO THE VICARAGE! I'LL MEET YOU LATER!

AT BLACK TOR, THE HIGHEST POINT ON THE KENTISH COAST, JOHN SIGNALS TO THE DUTCH SHIP...

THEY HAVE THE MESSAGE!

AT THE VICAR'S POST...

NOTHING TO REPORT, CAPTAIN!

VERY WELL, VICAR! THE GENERAL ORDERS THAT YOU STAY AT YOUR POST!

A SHORT TIME LATER, DR. SYN DONS THE SCARECROW'S OUTFIT...

TOO MUCH AT STAKE TO WAIT... AND TOO MUCH DANGER FOR JOHN IF HIDDEN REDCOATS ARE IN HIS PATH! I MUST GO TO MEET HIM!

THERE'S MUCH DANGER FOR ALL OF US, BUT IF WE CAN ONLY SUCCEED TONIGHT...!

MEANWHILE, AT THE VICARAGE...

CHRISTOPHER! HMPH! PAST NINE OF THE CLOCK AND HE'S STILL GONE... PLAYING SOAPY PUGH'S SILLY GAME, I SUPPOSE!

OR MAYHAP HE HAS RETURNED AND IS AT PRAYERS! I'LL SURPRISE HIM! POOR LAD, I HOPE MY GIFT WILL PLEASE HIM!

DR. SYN RIDES WARILY ON...

JOHN MAY NOT HAVE MADE IT TO BLACK TOR...OR THE DUTCHMAN MAY HAVE REFUSED TO LAND...!

SIR...!

MY ORDERS ARE TO PLACE THIS IN YOUR HANDS ONLY, SCARECROW!

AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR COURAGE TO DELIVER IT!

HORSEMEN, SIR!

INTO THAT HAYSTACK WITH THE DUTCHMAN QUICKLY! HIDE! QUICKLY!

HEE-HEE-HA-HEEEEEE!

SWING WIDE! PUSH HIM TOWARD THE SOUTH!

SOUTH...? THEN THERE MUST BE MORE SOLDIERS AHEAD OF ME!

THROUGH THE CHURCHYARD AND CIRCLE EAST! IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE...!

SAINTS PRESERVE ME! THE SCARECROW!

QUIET, MA'AM, PLEASE! DON'T BETRAY ME!

BEWARE! THE TROOPS ARE COMING!

THE SCARECROW'S CLOAK CATCHES ON A LIMB...

...AND IT LANDS ON THE GROUND...

THE SCARE-CROW! HELP! MURDER! SAVE ME!

THAT WAY! AFTER HIM! TO THE SOUTH!

YOU HEARD HER! SOUTHWARD, AT THE GALLOP!

NO PURSUIT! THANK HEAVEN FOR THAT, AT LEAST!

SOME MINUTES LATER...

YOU DUNDERHEADS! A PLAN THAT WAS SURE TO WORK...YOU LET HIM GET AWAY!

BUT, SIR, HE JUST SEEMED TO VANISH...!

SIR, YOU MUSTN'T GO BACK TO THE CHURCHYARD!

I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE! PUGH IS CERTAIN TO COME AFTER ME WHEN HE FINDS MY SCARECROW CLOAK...

I LOST IT SOMEWHERE NEAR THE BELFRY WALL! I MUST HAVE IT, MIPPS!

I'LL LOOK FOR IT, SIR... WHILE YOU DETRACT THE SOLDIERS!

SEIZE THIS MAN! SEARCH HIM!

I PROTEST...!

YOU LEFT YOUR POST, AS I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WOULD! AND IF I FIND ANYTHING AT ALL THAT SHOWS YOU'VE BEEN HELPING THE SCARECROW...

SOAPY PUGH, STOP IT! SENDING A POOR VICAR INTO THE NIGHT'S MISTS WITHOUT A CLOAK AND NOW ACCUSING HIM OF AIDING THE SCARE-CROW! BOSH!

PUT THIS ON, NEPHEW! I GOT IT FOR YOU THIS AFTERNOON! A GIFT...

WHY, AUNT MAUDE, I- I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!

I FOUND NOTHING ON THE VICAR, SIR! AND A REPORT SAYS THE SHIP OFFSHORE HAS LEFT!

BLAST IT! BUT... NO SIGN OF GOODS BEING LANDED! FOR ONCE, THE SCARECROW MUST HAVE FAILED!

MY APOLOGIES, VICAR! I'LL WITHDRAW MY MEN!

HMPH! WITHDRAW YOURSELF, TOO!

THE CLOAK... IT'S GONE!

OH, NO! IN THAT CLOAK ... WAS THE DUTCHMAN'S PACKAGE!

MOMENTS LATER...

I'M FOR THE INN TONIGHT, CHRISTOPHER, WHERE THINGS WILL BE LESS UPSETTING... AND ON TO LONDON TOMORROW!

ER... GODSPEED, AUNT MAUDE!

THE DUTCHMAN IS SAFELY AWAY, DR. SYN!

AND NOTHING TO SHOW FOR ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH!

WRONG, MIPPS!

IN THE POCKET OF MY *NEW* CLOAK I FOUND THE DIAMONDS FROM AMSTERDAM!

WHAT THEY'LL BRING WILL KEEP OUR WORK GOING FOR MONTHS... WITH NO NEED FOR THE SCARECROW TO RIDE!

BUT...THIS MEANS YOUR AUNT KNOWS WHO THE SCARECROW IS!

OF COURSE! SHE RECOGNIZED MY RAGGED OLD CLOAK! BUT AUNT MAUDE, BLESS HER FOR ALL SHE DID, WILL KEEP THE SECRET SAFE!

INDOORS, LADS! WE'LL BE SNUG AND SAFE BY NIGHT FOR MONTHS TO COME, WHILE GENERAL PUGH LOSES HIS SLEEP TRYING TO FIND US!

the END

THE SCARECROW

THE SCARECROW

PIN-UP